

HARDING ASSAILS RUM LAW EVASIONS

Death Of Ford's Cousin Plotted

4 IRISH REBEL CHIEFS EXECUTED IN REPRISAL

SHOT ON EDGE OF GRAVE

Executed In Dublin by Free Staters As Rebel



"Rory" O'Connor, formerly a leader in Sinn Féin left with de Valera to oppose the Anglo-Irish treaty party. He was captured at the destruction of the Four Courts in June and has been in jail since.

Execution of O'Connor and his three republican companions was a direct reprisal for assassination of Deputy Hales. It was revealed by an official statement issued by the Free State military authorities during the afternoon. At the same time, the Free State government issued warnings of similar reprisals for any more executions of Free State officials.

In addition to O'Connor, who was commander-in-chief of the republican irregulars in the battle of Dublin last June, Liam Mellows, former right-hand man of Eamon de Valera, and two others, Joseph McKelvey and Richard Barrett, were put to death.

The four prisoners had been arraigned secretly before a Free State court-martial Thursday night and sentenced to death. At dawn this morning they were taken into the yard of Mount Joy prison where they faced a firing squad.

Several attempts had been made to free O'Connor from prison by his republican friends on the outside, but all had met with failure.

Had Spectacular Careers. During the morning rumors were circulated throughout the city that O'Connor and three companions had been executed and they created much excitement. It was not until afternoon that the Free State military council issued an official statement at Porto Bello barracks, confirming the executions.

O'Connor and Mellows had spectacular careers. They were formerly aggressive members of the Sinn Féin group, switching to the republican side with de Valera when the Anglo-Irish treaty was signed.

It is again rumored that the arrest of de Valera is imminent.

As the soldiers were putting a handkerchief across Mellows' eyes he waved them aside.

"I want no bandages," he said. All went to their deaths bravely.

Three Catholic priests were present at the execution, praying for the doomed men until the blast of rifle fire drowned their voices.

The executions had ghastly elements that ordinarily would have broken the strongest nerves. The graves already had been dug in the yard for the immediate interment of the bodies as soon as the physicians officially pronounced life extinct.

The four condemned men were detained briefly and as they were led to the scene of death they had to pass the freshly dug graves.

The firing squad already was in the scene when the quartette were led forth. The soldiers waved rifles.

PHILLIPS CLUE IS PLANE

Jail-Breaking Woman Believed To Have Landed From Air In Arizona.

By International News Service. LOS ANGELES, Calif., Dec. 8.—Search for Clara Phillips, escaped "hammer murderer," centered today along the Arizona line, following receipt of advice by the Sheriff's office that a mysterious airplane landed near Phoenix last night and delivered a woman passenger said to have resembled Mrs. Phillips.

Witnessed Landing. A telegram to the sheriff's office said C. D. Harrison witnessed the landing of the plane, and while he could not positively identify the woman said she looked like the fugitive slayer. The couple, Harrison said, asked where they could get a street car into the city.

The plane was an old type De Havilland and marks indicated it was owned by the Crawford Air Service of Venice, Calif. Check there, however, revealed they did not own the machine. A map in the plane showed the southern route of the Southern Pacific.

Chinatown Is Searched. This report with all information available strengthened belief of officials that Mrs. Phillips is endeavoring to reach Mexico proper. State and federal officers along the Arizona and Texas borders were again asked today to exercise every precaution to prevent a crossing.

A sister of Mrs. Phillips is said to own a ranch in Mexico and many believe that is the haven Clara is seeking. While further check was made on a plane which landed at Brawley, Calif., and Sheriff Traeger followed further clues at Tia Juana, Mexico, the local search centered in Chinatown following a voluntary tip from "Peggy" Caffee, Clara's former chum, that the escaped prisoner may be quartered by underworld friends in the Oriental section of Los Angeles.

BULGAR REGULAR TROOPS CHECK REBELS' ADVANCE. LONDON, Dec. 8.—Bulgarian regular troops are restoring order and the advance of the Macedonian Agrarian rebels has been completely checked, according to advices from Sofia today.

Rebels sent out from Athens and Belgrade on Thursday regarding martial law in Bulgaria, assassinations at Sofia and the advance of an army towards Sofia were greatly exaggerated.

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Measures Its Horns Before He Bags His Deer

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., Dec. 8.—H. E. Scheckengast, of Centre Hall, measured the horns of a deer to settle a dispute as to the legality of their length before shooting the animal.

Scheckengast and several other hunters were standing nearby when three deer were chased out of the woods by gunners at Pottersbank and ran into a fence. The animals were stunned by the impact. One, a yearling buck, had such short horns that a dispute arose whether they were long enough to permit the legal killing of the animal.

From some workmen engaged a short distance away Scheckengast borrowed a two-foot rule, with which he measured the buck's horns, to find they were one-quarter inch longer than the legal length. He then shot the yearling and handed his rifle to a companion, who killed one of the other two deer. The third escaped to the woods.

ASTORIA, ORE., SWEEP BY FIRE

Nineteen City Blocks Destroyed, With Flames Still Beyond Control.

ASTORIA, Ore., Dec. 8.—Astoria is being swept by its most disastrous fire today, which threatens to wipe out the entire business section. The flames broke out suddenly in a restaurant early today and are beyond control.

Property loss is already estimated at between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000.

Nineteen city blocks, bounded by Astor, Dewayne, Ninth and Fourteenth streets were burned down at 7:30 a. m.

Fortland Sends Aid. Morris Staples, owner of the Ford garage and president of the Bank of Commerce, died of heart failure in his hurry to save his automobile. Firemen may have to dynamite valuable property to check the spread of the flames.

The Portland fire department has rushed several pieces of apparatus and much hose to the scene.

Shipping Is Menaced. The flames are leaping toward the water front and jeopardizing shipping.

Guests of the Weinhard Astoria Hotel were forced to flee in scanty attire from hotel rooms from the menacing flames.

Many narrow escapes were reported among guests who endeavored to collect personal belongings.

Water pressure was low during the early morning hours, and the fire ate into frame business blocks with a hundred tongues.

ARRESTED WHEN HE GOES TO COMPLAIN OF THEFT. When he went to the Sixth precinct station house early this morning to complain that three fur coats valued at \$500 had been stolen from him, Cincinnati Major, who said he lives at 3025 McCullough street, Baltimore, was himself arrested, and when searched was found to be in possession of a pistol.

It was not loaded. A charge of carrying a deadly weapon was preferred against him.

He gave the coats to two other negroes to sell for him at a house in Dingman alley. The negroes went into the house and ran out by way of the rear door. Later the police recovered the coats at a house nearby. Two suspects have been arrested.

U. S. FORCES WILL QUIT SAN DOMINGO SOON. One of the final steps in the withdrawal of United States forces from San Domingo was taken today when the Navy Department ordered Rear Admiral Samuel S. Robinson, military governor of the island, to Washington to serve with the General Board.

The orders were made public by the Navy Department today.

OFFICIALS DENY RECALL OF CHARGE SUMMERLIN. Reports of the recall of George T. Summerlin, American charge d'affaires at Mexico City, were denied officially today by the State Department.

DETECTIVE ACCUSES WIFE

Mrs. Ney J. Ford Arrested on Charge of Offering \$20,000 to Gunman.

By International News Service. DETROIT, Dec. 8.—Mrs. May B. Ford, estranged wife of Ney J. Ford, wealthy second cousin of Henry Ford, motor-car manufacturer, was to be taken to prosecutor Paul W. Voorhies office today for questioning concerning an alleged plot to have her husband murdered.

Mrs. Ford was arrested last night by Detective Sergeant Ovid Smith as she was standing at Woodward and Temple avenues waiting to meet the "gunman" who was to kill Ford, police allege.

Claims Offer of \$20,000. It was the climax to a drama of real life which rivals the most thrilling of Nick Carter's adventures.

Detective Lieutenant Edward W. Kunath, Sergeant Straith's partner, also posed as a Kansas City gunman, says Mrs. Ford offered him \$20,000 to kill her husband and burn the body.

Kunath's story, on which a warrant charging attempted murder was issued by Judge Harry B. Keldan, was corroborated by Straith, who, with another officer hid in a room adjoining that in a park boulevard apartment where Mrs. Ford is alleged to have unfolded the murder plot.

Slushy Hear Conversation. Part of the wall had been removed and the opening covered with paper so the conversation of Mrs. Ford and Kunath could be plainly heard, Straith said.

Ford is reputed to be worth about \$500,000. According to Kunath Mrs. Ford agreed to pay the \$20,000 as soon as the estate was settled, and she had obtained the money and property.

At the meeting in the Park boulevard place Mrs. Ford turned over to him a sketch of the Ford farm roads, for making the "get away" and places where Ford could be found doing chores, Kunath says.

She also gave him a photograph taken after her wedding so he could make no mistake in identifying Ford, he said.

"Frame Up," She Says. When informed of the charge against her, Mrs. Ford declared it was a "frame-up" engineered by "those interested in her husband's side of the divorce case."

"I'm game and I'll fight it like a woman," she said at police headquarters. "I'm not afraid. They've nothing on me."

She said she had not been informed that Lieutenant Kunath was the "gunman."

Mrs. Ford, who is thirty-five years old, is a brunette with large brown eyes, and was formerly a nurse in Toledo. She has been married before and divorced, police say.

HEART DISEASE CLINIC ASKED BY DR. FOWLER

With deaths from heart disease in the District exceeding those from all other causes, Dr. William C. Fowler, District health officer, is today looking into the practicability of establishing heart clinics throughout the city.

Dr. Fowler says the results achieved in combating tuberculosis give him reason to believe material gains would be derived from such clinics. As there are no funds public-spirited citizens and physicians would have to support such clinics at the outset.

Examination shows, Dr. Fowler points out, that more than 3 per cent of the children in the District schools suffer from defective hearts.

RALSTON DISAVOWS PRESIDENTIAL BEE

Samuel M. Ralston, Democratic Senator-elect from Indiana, who defeated Albert J. Beveridge in the November election, disavowed any Presidential aspirations today on his first visit to the Capitol since the election.

There has been a great deal of talk in political circles recently over the availability of Governor Ralston in 1924.

"I am not a candidate for President, nor am I intending to be one," said Governor Ralston. "I'm coming to Washington next year to render what I hope will be some useful service in the Senate. That's all."

Summary of President's Message

THE FARMER.

The Federal Farm Loan Bureau may well have its powers enlarged. It is entirely practical to create a division in the Federal land banks to deal with the production of credits. Special provision must be made for live stock production credits.

RAILROADS.

Highways for freight traffic by motor have paralleled the railways and thereby taken away from the agency of expected service much of its profitable traffic. Costly highway ought to be made to serve as feeder rather than competitors of the railroad.

The Government has the responsibility of pointing the way to reduced freight rates. Government operation does not afford the cure. The merger of lines into systems, a facilitated interchange of freight cars, economic use of terminals, and consolidation of facilities are suggested ways of economy and efficiency.

I think well of a central agency which shall be a creation of the railways themselves, under jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission, to provide means of financing equipment for carriers otherwise unable to provide their proportion of power equipment.

RAILROAD LABOR.

A tribunal to which railway labor and managers may appeal respecting questions of wages and working conditions cannot be too strongly commended. Such an agency should be a guaranty against suspension of service, the function of this tribunal could be much better carried on here in Washington.

Theoretically, a fair and living wage must be determined quite apart from the railway's personal capacity, but in practice, in the railway service they are inseparable. A labor division in the I. C. C. to hear and decide disputes offers a more effective plan. This will involve increase in membership of the commission, probably four.

COMMERCIAL.

No one contemplates commercial slackness. We should rejoice to help rehabilitate currency systems, and facilitate all commerce which does not drag us to the very levels of those we seek to lift up.

PROHIBITION.

Let men who are rendering the moral fiber of the Republic through easy contempt for the prohibition law, because they think it hinders their personal liberty, remember that they set the example and breed a contempt for law which will ultimately destroy the Republic.

There are conditions relating to its (prohibition) enforcement which are contrary to national public opinion, which I do not believe, the rigorous and literal enforcement will concentrate public attention on any requisite modification. I purpose to invite governors of States and territories to a conference with the Federal executive authority.

IMMIGRATION.

Before enlarging immigration quotas we had better provide for registration for aliens.

CHILD LABOR.

The decision of the Supreme Court has put this problem outside Federal regulation until the Constitution is amended. I recommend the submission of such an amendment.

TAXATION.

I renew the recommendation of an amendment to lawfully restrict issue of tax-exempt securities.

CONSERVATION.

Reclamation and irrigation projects are worthy of your favorable consideration. Protection from fire (forest) should be made most effective and replanting encouraged.

HIGH COST OF LIVING.

We might well inquire into the benefits of cooperative buying.

DESCRIBES SITUATION AS NATIONAL SCANDAL

By GEORGE R. HOLMES, International News Service.

In a vigorous message, hitting straight from the shoulder on a number of great domestic issues, President Harding went before a joint session of Congress this afternoon with the most far-reaching program the Administration has yet offered for dealing with the railroad situation, agricultural relief and prohibition enforcement.

The greater part of the President's long message dealt with this trio of national troubles, and chief among his recommendations were the following:

RAILROADS.

He suggested the advisability of abolishing the Railway Labor Board as at present constituted, and the transfer of its functions to the Interstate Commerce Commission through the addition of four new members who would constitute "a labor division."

He dismissed the idea of Government operation as already having failed, and as impractical.

He suggested and endorsed the theory that railroad strikes should be prohibited by law.

He endorsed the living wage for railway workers.

PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT.

He characterized the present enforcement as "a nationwide scandal," and "the most demoralizing factor of our national life."

He announced his intention of summoning to Washington at an early date a conference of the governors of all the States for a discussion of the whole enforcement problem, in the hope that out of closer co-operation between State and Federal officers may come stricter observance of the law.

He warned those who evade the prohibition law they are undermining the moral fiber of the Republic.

He expressed the belief that the Eighteenth Amendment in the Constitution to stay.

He endorsed the statutory enforcement laws (the Volstead law) but recognized the possibility of modification. Strict enforcement will reveal, he said, whether deliberate public opinion wants modification.

Agricultural Relief.

He urgently recommended the need of greater credit facilities for the farmer, extended through the nation's great financial system.

He declared the farmers should have lower freight rates for moving their crops to the market, and that also new channels to markets must be opened up through improved waterways and highways.

Foreign Relations Touched.

The President dealt only perfunctorily with foreign relations. He declared the nation was threatened with no wars, and he defended vigorously the part America has played in the international conference abroad, saying America has been influential in those councils.

America is willing, he said, to help other countries with their chaotic currency and commercial conditions, but not at the expense of dragging America down to their level.

Asks Two Amendments.

Contrary to expectations held in some quarters, the President made no recommendation for letting down the immigration bars to allow an influx of "common labor."

"Before enlarging the immigration quotas," the President said, "it would be better to register and educate those aliens already in the United States."

The President recommended two new constitutional amendments—(1) a child labor amendment, and (2) an amendment prohibiting the issuance of tax free securities by the States and municipalities, which has resulted in the tying up of \$15,000,000,000 on which the Government is getting no taxes.

In this connection the President

If the sober and deliberate appraisal of pre-war civilization makes it seem a worthwhile inheritance, then with patience and good courage it will be preserved. There never again will be precisely the old order; indeed, I know of no one who thinks it to be desirable. For out of the old order

I would like the Congress and the people to believe that in a firm and considerate way we are insistent on American rights wherever they may be a question of the rights of others.

(Continued on Page 4, Column 1.)